

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 169
Hearing: Budget Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1.1
Programme: Biodiversity and Conservation Division
Topic: Solar Towns
Hansard Page:
Question Date:
Question Type: Written

Senator Urquhart asked:

I'd like to ask about the Solar Towns program, that was promised prior to the election and is now being delivered on a much smaller scale. Applications for the 2014-15 competitive round for the Surf Coast Shire in Victoria closed on 20 February. Can you update us on the assessment process for this round?

Your website also states that a number of preselected community sites in Tasmania and Victoria would receive funding from the 2014-15 round. When will these be announced? Will the grants be to value of what is expected by these community groups?

Answer:

Assessment process for the Surf Coast Shire:

The assessment process for the Surf Coast Shire, Victoria was completed on 28 April 2015. As a result, 20 projects totalling \$300,884 (GST exclusive) have been contracted and paid.

Preselected community sites in Tasmania and Victoria:

In 2014-15 there were joint media releases between the Minister and the Federal member for Lyons announcing funding for the Solar Towns projects:

- 19 December 2014 – funding for eight of the community groups across Tasmania was announced. The media release is available at:
- 21 January 2015 – funding for the Sorell RSL and Community Club was announced. The media release is available at:

- <http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/hunt/2014/pubs/mr20141219.pdf>

- <http://www.environment.gov.au/minister/hunt/2015/pubs/mr20150121a.pdf>

The announcement of funding for the remaining eight sites is a matter for the Minister for the Environment.

All preselected community sites located within the electorate of Lyons, Tasmania and the town of Castlemaine, Victoria were able to apply for grants of between \$2,500 (GST exclusive) and \$20,000 (GST exclusive). The preselected community site of St Mark's Court was eligible to apply for funding of up to \$50,000 (GST exclusive). All groups were successful in receiving funding which they applied for.